AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-35.　(Cancelled)

36.　(Previously Presented)　A method for traffic control in a communication system comprising a plurality of access networks and at least one mobile multi-access terminal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at a network-based traffic control server of the communication system, access-related information from at least a subset of the access networks;

coordinating the access-related information at the traffic control server;

determining a traffic control signal through adaptive traffic control calculations based on the coordinated access-related information; and,

spreading, at a traffic control client of the multi-access terminal, traffic over the access networks in response to the traffic control signal.

37.　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 36, wherein the adaptive traffic control calculations involves iteratively executing an adaptive traffic control algorithm for reaching a predetermined control objective.

38.　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 36, wherein the spreading step involves distributing traffic over at least two access networks substantially simultaneously.

39.　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 36, wherein said determining step is performed at the traffic control server and involves a traffic-spread decision by the traffic control server, said method further comprising the step of forwarding the traffic spread decision to the traffic control client.

40.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 36, wherein the determining step is performed at the traffic control server, said method further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a traffic distribution recommendation comprising the traffic control signal from the traffic control server to the traffic control client; and,

deciding, at the traffic control client, how to spread traffic over the access networks based on the traffic distribution recommendation.

41.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of receiving, at the traffic control server, terminal-specific access information from the multi-access terminal, the terminal-specific access information being used in the determining and/or deciding step at the traffic control server.

42.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of forwarding the coordinated access-related information from the traffic control server to the traffic control client, and wherein the determining step is performed at the traffic control client.

43.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 36, wherein the traffic spreading step is further based on terminal requirements and/or access network requirements.

44.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 36, wherein, for a communication system with a plurality of multi-access terminals, for at least a subset of the multi-access terminals, traffic controlling actions are performed at different network positions for different multi-access terminals.

45.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 36, wherein the adaptive traffic control calculations involve minimizing the difference between a desired value and a current value of an access-related parameter.

46.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 45, wherein the desired value of the access-related parameter is determined at the respective access network and included in the access-related information transmitted to the traffic control server from the respective access network.

47.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 45, comprising the step of determining the desired value of the access-related parameter at the network-based traffic control server.

48.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 36, wherein the traffic spreading step at the traffic control client is session-based.

49.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 48, wherein said traffic spreading step comprises the steps of:

receiving a session request at the multi-access terminal;

selecting an access network for the session of the session request at the traffic control client in the multi-access terminal; and,

associating the session with the selected access network at the traffic control client, whereby packets of the session are directed to the selected access network.

50.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 36, further comprising the steps of:

assigning a respective mobility IP address for each access network of the multi-access terminal; and,

associating, at the multi-access terminal, the respective mobility IP addresses with respective virtual access network interfaces.

51.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 37, wherein the adaptive traffic control algorithm is selected from the group consisting of a proportional and integral (PI) control algorithm, a proportional, integral and derivative (PID) control

algorithm, a proportional (P) control algorithm, a minimum-variance control algorithm and an RST control algorithm.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the traffic control server is associated with an overall access server with means for access handling, mobility and security.

53. (Previously Presented) A communication system including a plurality of access networks, at least one mobile multi-access terminal and means for traffic control, comprising:

means for receiving, at a network-based traffic control server of the communication system, access-related information from at least a subset of the access networks;

means for coordinating the access-related information at the traffic control server;

means for determining a traffic control signal through adaptive traffic control calculations based on the coordinated access-related information; and,

means for spreading, at a traffic control client associated with the multi-access terminal, traffic over the access networks in response to the traffic control signal.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the means for determining comprises means for iteratively executing an adaptive traffic control algorithm for predetermined control purposes.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the means for determining is arranged at the traffic control server, said system further comprising:

means for transmitting a traffic distribution recommendation comprising the traffic control signal from the traffic control server to the traffic control client; and,

means for deciding, at the traffic control client, how to spread traffic over the access networks based on the traffic distribution recommendation.

56.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 53 having a plurality of multi-access terminals, wherein, for at least a subset of the multi-access terminals, different multi-access terminals comprise traffic control means associated with different degrees of self-control.

57.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 53, wherein the traffic control server is associated with an overall access server with means for access handling, mobility and security.

58.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 53, wherein the access networks of the communication system include at least one access network using a technology selected from the group consisting of GPRS, WLAN, Ethernet, Bluetooth, WiFi, xDSL, CDMA, WCDMA and cable modem.

59.   (Previously Presented)   A network-based traffic control server device in a communication system including a plurality of access networks, at least one mobile multi-access terminal and means for traffic control, said server device comprising:

means for receiving access-related information from at least a subset of the access networks;

means for coordinating the access-related information;

means for determining a traffic control signal through adaptive traffic control calculations based on the coordinated access-related information; and,

means for transmitting traffic distribution information comprising the traffic control signal to a traffic control client of the multi-access terminal.

60.   (Previously Presented)   The server device of claim 59, wherein the means for determining in turn comprises means for iteratively executing an adaptive traffic control algorithm for predetermined control purposes.

EUS/GJ/P:09-1234

61.   (Previously Presented)   The server device of claim 59, wherein the means for determining comprises traffic-spread deciding means, and the server device further comprises means for forwarding the traffic spread decision to the traffic control client.

62.   (Previously Presented)   The server device of claim 59, wherein the traffic distribution information comprises a traffic distribution recommendation based on which traffic can be spread over the access networks.

63.   (Previously Presented)   The server device of claim 59, further comprising means for receiving terminal-specific access information from the multi-access terminal.

64.   (Previously Presented)   The server device of claim 59, wherein the coordinating step involves aggregating or processing the access-related information.

65.   (Previously Presented)   The server device of claim 59, wherein the adaptive traffic control calculations involve minimizing the difference between a desired value and a current value of an access-related parameter.

66.   (Previously Presented)   The server device of claim 60, wherein the adaptive traffic control algorithm is selected from the group of a proportional and integral (PI) control algorithm, a proportional, integral and derivative (PID) control algorithm, a proportional (P) control algorithm, a minimum-variance control algorithm and an RST control algorithm.

67.   (Previously Presented)   The server device of claim 59, being associated with an overall access server with means for access handling, mobility and security.

68.	(Previously Presented)	A mobile multi-access terminal in a communication system including a plurality of access networks, a network-based traffic control server and means for traffic control, said terminal comprising:

means for receiving, at a traffic control client, traffic distribution information comprising a traffic control signal determined through adaptive traffic control calculations from the traffic control server; and,

means for spreading, at the traffic control client, traffic over the access networks in response to the traffic control signal.

69.	(Previously Presented)	The multi-access terminal of claim 68, wherein the means for spreading involves means for distributing traffic over at least two access networks substantially simultaneously.

70.	(Previously Presented)	The multi-access terminal of claim 68, wherein the means for spreading in turn comprises:

means for receiving a session request;

means for selecting an access network for the session of the session request at the traffic control client; and,

means for associating the session with the selected access network at the traffic control client, whereby packets of the session are directed to the selected access network.

* * *